

Message Text

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R 151752Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303872

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

1. SENATOR ABOUREZK IN DAMASCUS MET SYRIAN HEAD OF PARLIAMENT AND ON HIS RETURN HERE SOUNDED OUT HIS COLLEAGUES RE POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL INVITATION TO A SYRIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT U.S. THIS APPARENTLY IS NOT FEASIBLE. SENATOR THEN ASKED WHETHER DEPT COULD SCRAMBLE UP SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF OFFICIAL INVITATION, ON UNDERSTANDING HE WOULD GUARANTEE INVOLVEMENT OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN HOSPITALITY AND ATTENTION TO VISITORS WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

2. SENATOR SAYS THERE IS SYRIAN INTEREST IN OFFICIAL VISIT AND THAT SYRIANS WOULD PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.

3. MY CHECK WITH CU REVEALED THAT WE COULD ARRANGE TWO-TO-THREE WEEK VISIT BY THREE MP'S UNDER IV PROGRAM, USING \$6,000 OF YOUR \$12,000, IF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INCLUDED,
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WITH VISITS ELSEWHERE IN U.S. AFTER BRIEF STAY IN

WASHINGTON.

4. I CAUTIOUSLY INFORMED SENATOR THAT THIS WOULD BE A BIG
CHUNK OF YOUR LIMITED PROGRAM BUT SAID WE WOULD SOLICIT
YOUR VIEWS. I PERSONALLY AM INTRIGUED WITH IDEA.

5. ASIDE FROM ABOVE, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS
WHETHER OUR POLICY INTERESTS IN SYRIA WOULD DICTATE A
BETTER-FUNDED IV PROGRAM IN ANY EVENT. KISSINGER

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